Appendix Table 7-12 Public assessment of benefits and harms of scientific research, by respondent characteristic: 2014

(Percent)

Characteristic	Benefits strongly outweigh harmful results	Benefits slightly outweigh harmful results	Benefits are about equal to harmful results	Harmful results slightly outweigh benefits	Harmful results strongly outweigh benefits	Don't know
All adults (*n* = 2,130)	43	26	16	7	2	6
Sex						
Male (*n* = 951)	49	21	16	8	2	5
Female (*n* = 1,179)	38	30	16	6	2	7
Formal education						
< High school (*n* = 246)	19	25	30	12	1	13
High school diploma (*n* = 632)	33	29	19	8	3	8
Some college (*n* = 607)	42	27	16	7	3	5
Bachelor's degree (*n* = 406)	60	24	10	3	1	2
Graduate/professional degree (*n* = 239)	73	18	4	1	1	3
Science/mathematics education[a]						
Low (*n* = 1,205)	33	28	20	8	3	8
Middle (*n* = 392)	50	26	13	6	2	3
High (*n* = 435)	68	20	7	2	1	2
Family income (quartile)[b]						
Bottom (*n* = 532)	22	27	25	12	4	11
Third (*n* = 440)	38	26	19	9	3	5
Second (*n* = 512)	51	29	11	4	2	3
Top (*n* = 480)	63	20	9	3	1	3
Age (years)[b]						
18–24 (*n* = 103)	27	31	23	7	3	9
25–34 (*n* = 382)	40	25	19	8	2	6
35–44 (*n* = 381)	39	30	16	7	2	6
45–54 (*n* = 376)	51	22	17	5	2	3

Characteristic	Benefits strongly outweigh harmful results	Benefits slightly outweigh harmful results	Benefits are about equal to harmful results	Harmful results slightly outweigh benefits	Harmful results strongly outweigh benefits	Don't know
55–64 (*n* = 429)	52	24	11	5	3	5
≥ 65 (*n* = 441)	42	27	14	7	1	9
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) [c]						
Bottom (n = 349)	18	32	21	11	2	16
Third (n = 588)	31	28	21	10	3	6
Second (n = 596)	46	26	16	5	2	5
Top (n = 597)	67	20	8	3	1	1

[a] Low = ≤ 5 high school and college science/mathematics courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥ 9 courses. Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

[b] Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

[c] Quartiles are based on the percentage of the nine questions in the trend factual knowledge of science scale that were answered correctly. See notes to appendix table 7-2 for the questions.

NOTES: Responses to *People have frequently noted that scientific research has produced benefits and harmful results. Would you say that, on balance, the benefits of scientific research have outweighed the harmful results, or have the harmful results of scientific research been greater than its benefits?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2014).

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